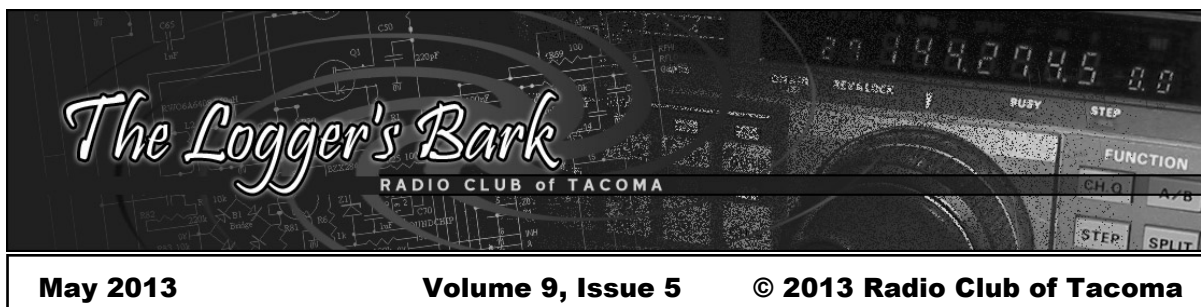




From the Editor

Howdy to everyone -

Featured in this month's issue, a peek at Bob's trip to "down under", where he never escaped the watchful eye of his colleagues in the Pacific Nor'West.

Also, take a look at my report about the online signal reporting utility, the Reverse Beacon Network. Clever idea. I'm becoming more skilled at using some of the filtering and mapping functions it offers, so if you want to take a look at it, grab me some Saturday at the clubhouse and I'll give you a test drive.

It looks like the club is going to hunker at the clubhouse this year for Field Day. A few new twists will be added, possibly a 1960's station, and there is some talk of setting up for satellite activity. The main factor for not going primitive this year was limited responses to requests for members to help fill some of the overall leadership vacancies associated with organizing and producing a field day with complex logistics. Nonetheless, I think a Field Day at W7DK is going to be just as much fun, and maybe we'll even stay a bit drier than we did last year. Be sure to keep abreast of the planned activities on the club website w7dk.org. As always, participation by YOU, the members, is important to the success of this event.

I drove by the clubhouse just a bit ago (May 1), and lo and behold, there is now a beam and rotor sitting atop the new antenna mast, complete with cables going into the attic of the clubhouse. Well done, and may the propagation gods smile upon us as a result of the hard work of dedicated group of hams.

And finally, it is our sad duty report that W7DK club member Morel Guyot W6LIX became a Silent Key on April 22nd. His contributions and camaraderie will be sorely missed. His health has prevented him from being around the clubhouse for the past couple of years, but his presence can be felt throughout the W7DK facilities by the activities in which he participated.

Nuffernow. 73 de W7MWF/Mike



In This Month's Issue

Minutes and Meeting Highlights	Page 2
In Memoriam W6LIX	Page 5
Wanderings of K7MXE	Page 6
Reverse Beacon Network	Page 8
Around the Clubhouse	Page 10
Member's Wallpaper	Page 11
The Fine Print	Page 12

Board of Directors Meeting**3 April 2013**

The 3 April 2013 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	James Mendenhall KE6WHN

There were 10 names on the Board attendance roster

Minutes:

The minutes of the 6 March 2013 Board meeting, as coordinated and corrected, were approved without objection.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT: KD4VOM reports the following correspondence;

Utility and Phone Bills
Bank Statements
Newsletters
QEX Experimenters Journal
Membership Renewals
Electric Radio
QSL Card

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob AD7LJ's work commitments did not permit creation of the monthly financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Membership:** Larry KD4VOM

Membership renewal grace period has ended. Our current membership, is running over 250. The annual membership booklet will be a couple of weeks off as the Secretary figures out how to build it. The web roster will be updated within a week.

RCT Information Technology Committee: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an IT Committee update report.

Several software applications have been installed on the Simmons Room computer including Google Earth, Antenna Modeling and the CHIRP HT programing.

Randy has completed some preliminary evaluation work on the Barcode project, using a returnable scanner and trial inventory software. While not conclusive and work need to be done with the Property Management and Library managers, the gear and software evaluated do not appear promising. Further evaluation may go either way and the IT Committee doesn't possess sufficient information to recommend the gear and software evaluated. The IT Committee detailed demonstration and discussions with the Property Management Committee to determine if the software and scanner tested might work for them.

A copy of the IT Barcode evaluation report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Property Management: No report

Planning Committee Report: Larry KD4VOM

Progress Summary:

Progress on the one and three year HF and Repeater systems planning and project budgeting is waiting getting the stakeholders together to identify needs, wants and costs.

Discussion on the Facilities planning and project budgeting have begun and the hope is that we will have an update at the May Board meeting.

Without the information needed from the HF, Repeater and Facilities project planning and budget data, work on the Club's one and three year budget cannot proceed.

HF and Repeater Operations:

Repeater Operations: Nick K7MO reviewed the status of the club repeaters

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28 location: Status: Awaiting upgrade to Motorola Master II configuration

W7DK 147.28 Repeater, Clubhouse: Status Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater, Crawford Mountain: On the bench awaiting installation work and return to service. Work is nearly complete, and assistance will be needed to haul the repeater back to Crawford Mountain and complete the reinstallation

W7DK 440.625 Repeater, Clubhouse: Status: Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational

Nick K7MO announced that WWARA coordination has been successful to establish repeater VHF/UHF remote control of our repeaters

HF Operations: Gary WG7X discussed the current HF configuration, and believes that one additional station may be desired, as funds and construction capabilities become available. Gary will work to develop the necessary planning and budget information necessary for the next one and three years.

UHF/VHF MA40 Tower: It appears the newly installed tower winch has issues and may require rebuild or replacement. Cost estimates are needed.

Facilities Management: Bruce Hanson WE7P

Bruce expects to present a facilities planning update within the next few months.

Training:

Next Technician Class is scheduled for this weekend, April 6th and 7th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Hamfest:

RCT Hamfest: No change, no bill

Emergency Operations Plan: KD4VOM

Larry Watson KD4VOM reports that workload and other factors continue to delay getting the Club's Em-Comm plan underway.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Field Day: There is an exploratory Field Day Planning meeting scheduled for Friday around 5 /5:30 pm for those interested.

Meeting adjourned.



GENERAL MEETING NOTES

10 April 2013

The 10 April General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. President Gary WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board	Glen Galati KA7BOJ

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 38 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest and Self introductions were completed; those with new calls were introduced.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: None reported

Correspondence:

Newsletters	Bank Statements
Utility Bills	Membership Renewals

Treasurer: The Field Day donation pig was circulated, the Club financial report can be found on the club website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training: There will be not be training class in May due to Mother's Day.

VE Report: No VE report was available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Membership: Renewals were delinquent as of 31 March. Those who have not renewed by then will not be in the annual Club Membership Roster Book. It is expected that the booklet will be available after the end of April.

Open House Hosts Sought: The Club is soliciting members to serve as Open House Hosts on Saturdays at the Clubhouse. Contact the Secretary if interested. Several Saturdays are open, check the website for a current schedule

Field Day: It was announced that there will be a Field Day planning meeting at the clubhouse on Friday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Bark Newsletter: W7MWF reported that the April issue of The Bark should be available on the website in the next day or two.

Tasmania Adventure: Rich KR7W reported that Bob K7MXE was enroute to Tasmania and that he could be tracked via APRS. Bob AD7LJ checked with his smart phone and advised the group that KE7MXE-9 was currently in Melbourne, Australia.

PROGRAM: A video presentation to the ARNSW Home Brew Group "Free DV (Digital Voice) over HF Frequencies" was shown.

SHOW AND TELL: Rich KR7W presented a slide show and hands demonstration of Loop Antennas.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None reported

DOOR PRIZES: A clock was won by Ray KE7BZD and a voltmeter was won by Si KA7AQT

RAFFLE PRIZE: There was no raffle prize tonight
The Meeting was adjourned at: 08:23 pm

General Meeting Notes 24 April 2013 MINUTES

The 24 April General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Vice President Casey WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board	Al Ferguson N7OMS

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 31 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Casey WY7V

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest and Self introductions were completed; those with new calls were introduced.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: None reported

Correspondence:

Newsletters	Bank Statements
Utility Bills	Membership Renewals
State Annual Report Reminder	

Treasurer: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training: The next Technician's Class 8/9 June

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Field Day: N7OMS reported on the two Field Day Organizational Meetings held. The first meeting included those who managed some of last year's stations and activities, and the second invited those interested in participating.

The consensus of the two meetings was that there were not enough resources to commit to the Steilacoom Hospital site this year. The recommendation was to Conduct Field Day at the Clubhouse. Several options were presented including QRP and battery operated stations at the event on June 22-23, 2013.

Members planning to participate should familiarize themselves with the ARRL Field Day information packet available at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2013/2013-FD-Packet-V3.pdf>

Kirkreit Picnic: Casey WY7V reported that this year's annual picnic will also be held at the clubhouse, in part due to the cost of renting park facilities. Although not firm, Casey is looking at July for this year's Field Day

PROGRAM: "Constructing a Homebrew Antenna Feed Point Connector"

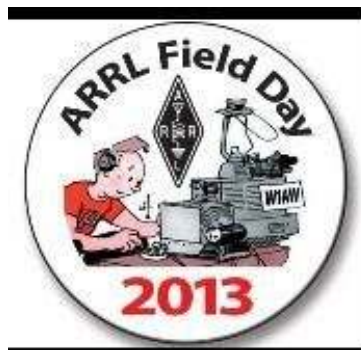
SHOW AND TELL: None reported.

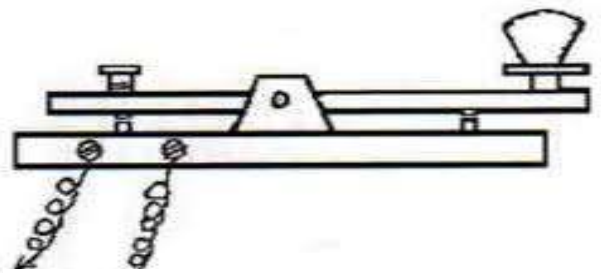
TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None reported

DOOR PRIZES: A VOM was won by Randy WB4SBP and a "Wind Wizard was won by Terry WQ7A

RAFFLE PRIZE: A Zenith table model radio was won by Mike, W7XTZ

The Meeting was adjourned at: 08:45 pm





Morel D. Guyot
W6LIX
Silent Key

March 26, 1920
April 22, 2013
First Licensed
October, 1932

In the photo above, Morel keeping his key-operating hands warm at the February, 2008 FYBO contest at Owens Beach.

On the right, Morel takes a turn during the Straight Key Night celebration held at the W7OS Museum on New Year's Eve, 2009.

Morel was a licensed amateur radio operator for over 71 years.

The history of amateur radio preserved in the W7OS Doc Spike Museum is due to the foresight of folks like Morel, and continues to be a part of his legacy.





The Tasmanian Devil

K7MXE in Tasmania

Last month, our intrepid explorer Bob K7MXE ventured off to Southern Australia and their island of Tasmania for a bit of sightseeing. I had few opportunities to spot his APRS beacon using the features on the website

aprs.fi

Good thing he had his transponder on, or he never would have been recognized in the rental car he was using.



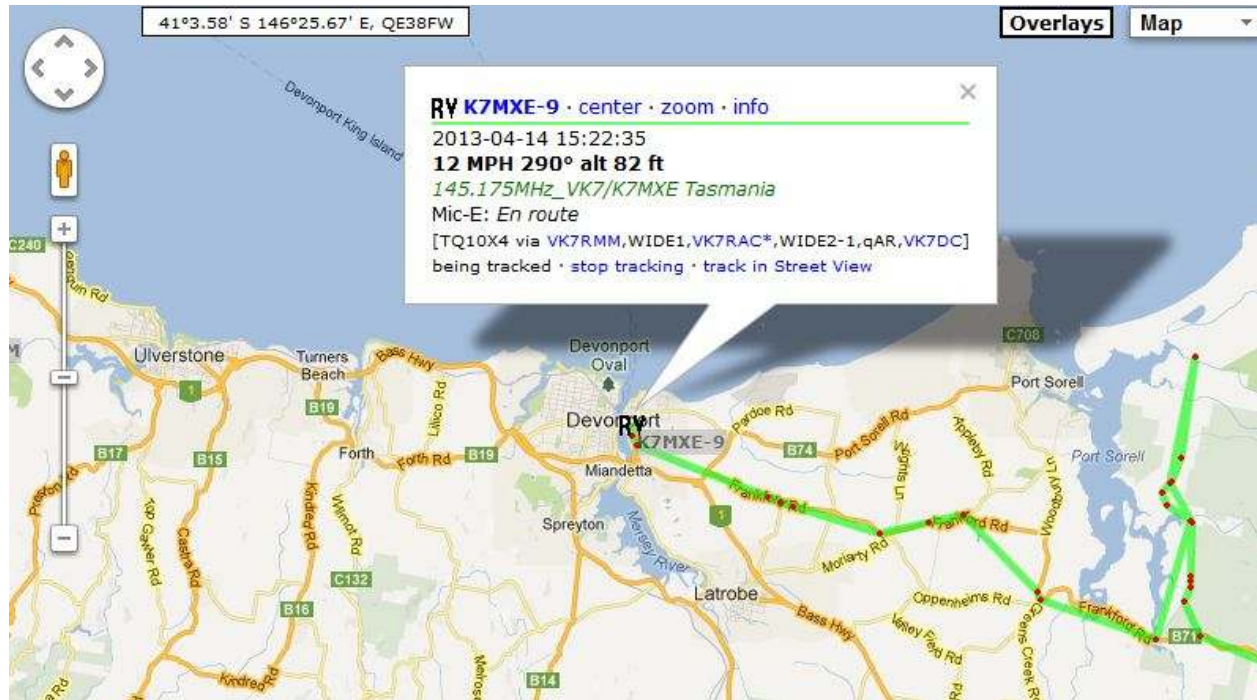
APRS station **K7MXE-9** **RY** - [show graphs](#)

Comment: 145.175MHz_VK7/K7MXE Tasr
Mic-E message: En route
Last beacon: K7MXE/R
Location: 37°50.45' S 144°56.05' E - loc
 2.1 miles Southwest bearing :
 2.3 miles South bearing 202°
 2.4 miles Southwest bearing :
 37.7 miles Northeast bearing :
Last position: 2013-04-10 18:14:08 PDT (14
 2013-04-11 11:14:08 EST local time at Southbank, Australia [?]
Altitude: 79 ft
Course: 239°
Device: Kenwood: TH-D72 (ht)
Last path: K7MXE-9>SW50T5 via VK3CV-1*,WIDE2-2,qAS,VK3API-13 **Good path!**
Positions stored: 2872
Other SSIDs: K7MXE-1 K7MXE-2 **K7MXE-3** **K7MXE-4** K7MXE-5 K7MXE-6 K7MXE-7

Last heard a station directly: 2012-06-02 11:10:36 PDT (312d 21h54m ago)

Stations near current position of **K7MXE-9** - [show more](#)

callsign	distance	last heard - PDT	callsign	distance	last heard - PDT
VK3JD-2	0.5 miles 48°	2013-04-10 17:38:07	VALERIE	0.7 miles 252°	2013-04-06 21:47:01
KERINA	0.9 miles 157°	2013-04-06 20:52:01	WAVELENGTH 2	1.3 miles 26°	2013-03-31 22:59:20
TRANSITION	1.3 miles 24°	2013-04-10 03:00:46	SPEED BIRD	1.3 miles 27°	2013-04-11 09:01:52
BLONDIE	1.3 miles 26°	2013-03-15 18:09:05	HEY JUDE	1.3 miles 21°	2013-04-10 01:16:31
TEMPTRESS	1.3 miles 26°	2013-04-11 09:03:52	BLAISE PASCAL	1.4 miles 223°	2013-04-05 23:46:58
SENTOSA LEADER	1.4 miles 251°	2013-04-11 09:02:49	EX SKUA VENTURE	1.5 miles 265°	2013-04-01 17:46:59
229248003	1.5 miles 233°	2013-04-06 03:25:52	SEIYO PIONEER	1.6 miles 334°	2013-04-11 09:04:49
KEERA	1.6 miles 330°	2013-04-11 09:02:52	503546102 AU	1.7 miles 329°	2013-04-10 01:37:34
VICTORIA 3 SEA PILOT	1.7 miles 216°	2013-04-11 04:12:12	KUTTABUL	1.7 miles 329°	2013-04-11 09:00:52
MV DREAMTIME	1.7 miles 16°	2013-04-11 09:00:52	MY TEXAS	1.7 miles 16°	2013-04-11 09:03:52



Tasmania (abbreviated as Tas and known colloquially as "Tassie") is an island state, part of the Commonwealth of Australia, located 240 kilometres (150 mi) to the south of the Australian continent, separated by Bass Strait. The state includes the island of Tasmania, the 26th largest island in the world, and the surrounding 334 islands.[wikipedia]. The coastal city of Devonport is approximately 8300 miles from W7DK.

de	
MFTN	
MFTN	
KTEG	
WA7LWV	
NC7J	
WA7LWV	
MFTN	
MFTN	
W4AX	
W2Z1	
KITTT	
KITTT	
K2WV	
MFTN	
NC7J	
VE6AD	
AA4VV	
W2Z1	
W6SS	
KWST	
KITTT	
WA7LWV	

Reverse Beacon Network

A useful tool for propagation analysis

From their website www.reversebeacon.net:

"The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.

So why should you care? Well, to begin with, you can see band openings in near-real time on an animated map. You can call a quick CQ, and see which reverse beacons hear you, and how strong you are. "

One Saturday last month at the RCT clubhouse, a club member introduced me to an on-line utility that provides "reverse-beacon" spotting of CW transmissions calling CQ.

Since the spotting stations are not persistent transmitters, the term "beacon" is probably a misnomer to the purist. This utility performs the skimming, spotting, and reporting using automated receiving stations that transmit analyzed data after receiving it. The display format is comfortably similar to DXWatch spotting reports.

I was spending a lot of time that weekend collecting numbers for my SKCC Centurion Award, and found the personalized spotting site very useful. Whether calling CQ or doing some search/pounce activity in hopes of getting a bit further along filling my dance card, my activity generated lots of spots to evaluate.

Interested? Visit their website www.reversebeacon.net

de	dx	freq	cq/dx	snr	speed	time
N7TR	W7MWF	7120.9	CW CQ	27 dB	14 wpm	0055z 22 Apr
N7TR	W7MWF	7117.9	CW CQ	21 dB	14 wpm	2251z 21 Apr
K7EG	W7MWF	14051.9	CW CQ	7 dB	12 wpm	2105z 21 Apr
WA7LNU	W7MWF	14051.9	CW CQ	27 dB	12 wpm	2103z 21 Apr
NC7J	W7MWF	14051.9	CW CQ	12 dB	14 wpm	1907z 21 Apr
WA7LNU	W7MWF	14052.0	CW CQ	26 dB	15 wpm	1906z 21 Apr
N7TR	W7MWF	7118.0	CW CQ	9 dB	13 wpm	1852z 21 Apr
N7TR	W7MWF	7117.9	CW CQ	31 dB	13 wpm	0425z 21 Apr

Above, a partial list of the spots of my CQ calls.

Right, see the same spotting info for W7MWF plotted to a map. I was astounded to see my 40 meter propagation that day off my fan dipole with 100 watts.

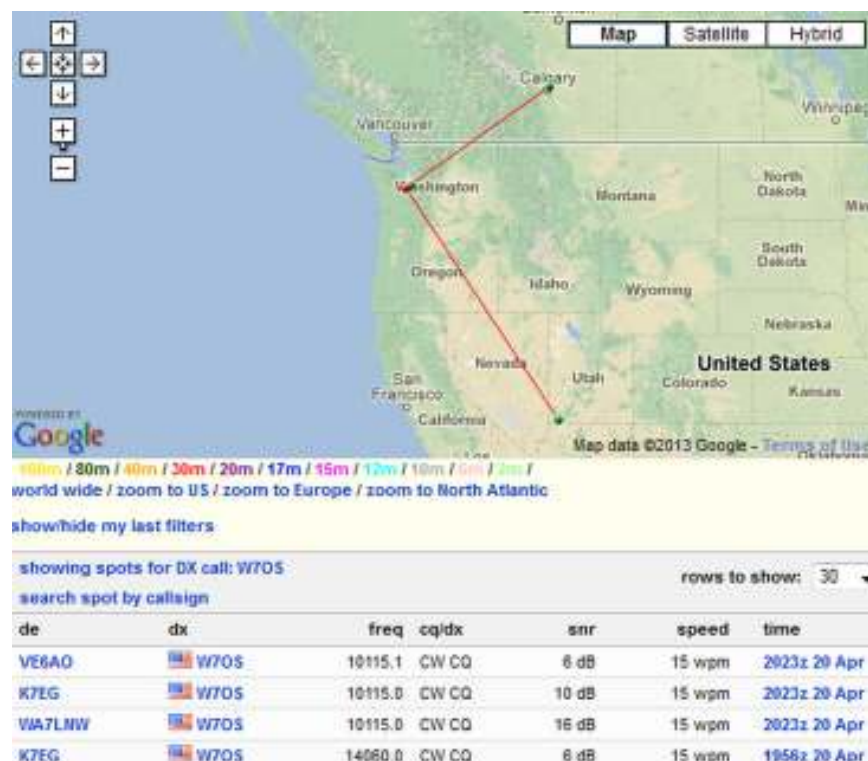
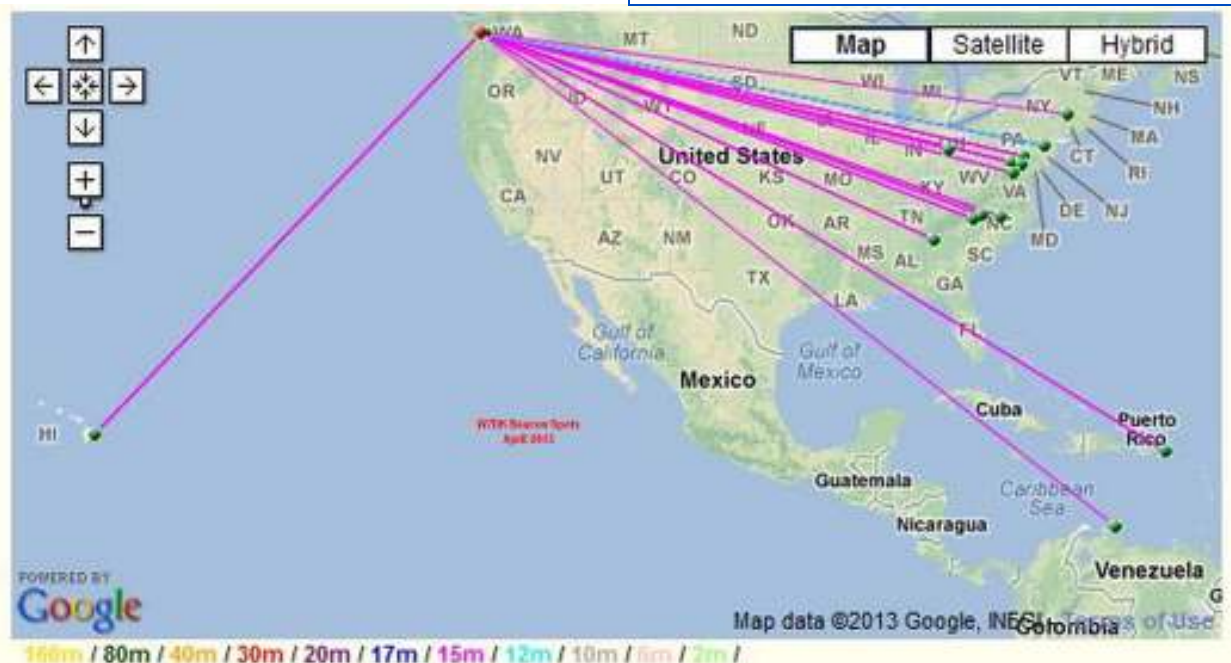
The colors of the lines on the map indicate the different bands.



Especially useful is the SNR (Signal:Noise Ratio) report that is provided. Give it a try and see what you find out. The filtering capability is very useful, and the learning curve is fairly gentle. Also, this utility could be useful for testing between several different antenna configurations.

The first graphic shown below are 20 Meter beacon spots that occurred for W7DK over a several day period in April.

The second graphic shows raw data and mapping of the signals transmitted using the Doc Spike Museum call sign W7OS on 20 April 2013 in the early afternoon.



Around the Clubhouse



Recently the hat was passed for contributions to fund a small but important component for the main HF radio in the Lou Room. The RCT ad hoc committee to Field-Day-ready the Club's IC-737 is happy to report that sufficient donations were collected, as of Saturday, April 27, 2013, to purchase a narrow-bandwidth filter to support CW operation on the Lou Room HF station.

Consequently, a filter has been purchased and installed. It is an INRAD #116, 400hz 455kHz CW 8-pole crystal filter. This filter is a pin-compatible replacement for the ICOM FL-52A filter. It is a bit less expensive and has somewhat better specifications.

Installation was performed on Wednesday, May 01, 2013, and the first QSO using the filter, a nice ragchew, took place on 40M CW with Bruce K6ZB, in Georgetown, TX.

We thank the following RCT members for contributing to the purchase of this equipment:

Jim KE7PVZ
Mike W7MWF
Mike W7XTZ
David W7HTJ
Randy WB4SPB
Paul KF7PFU
David W7BAD
Mike W7GHW
Gary WG7X



Rich KR7W
Bob K7MXE
Alan N7OMS
Greta KF7KSW
Bob N7NCP
Bruce WE7P
Chuck AC7QN
Stephen AD7AB
Jack K7DBU

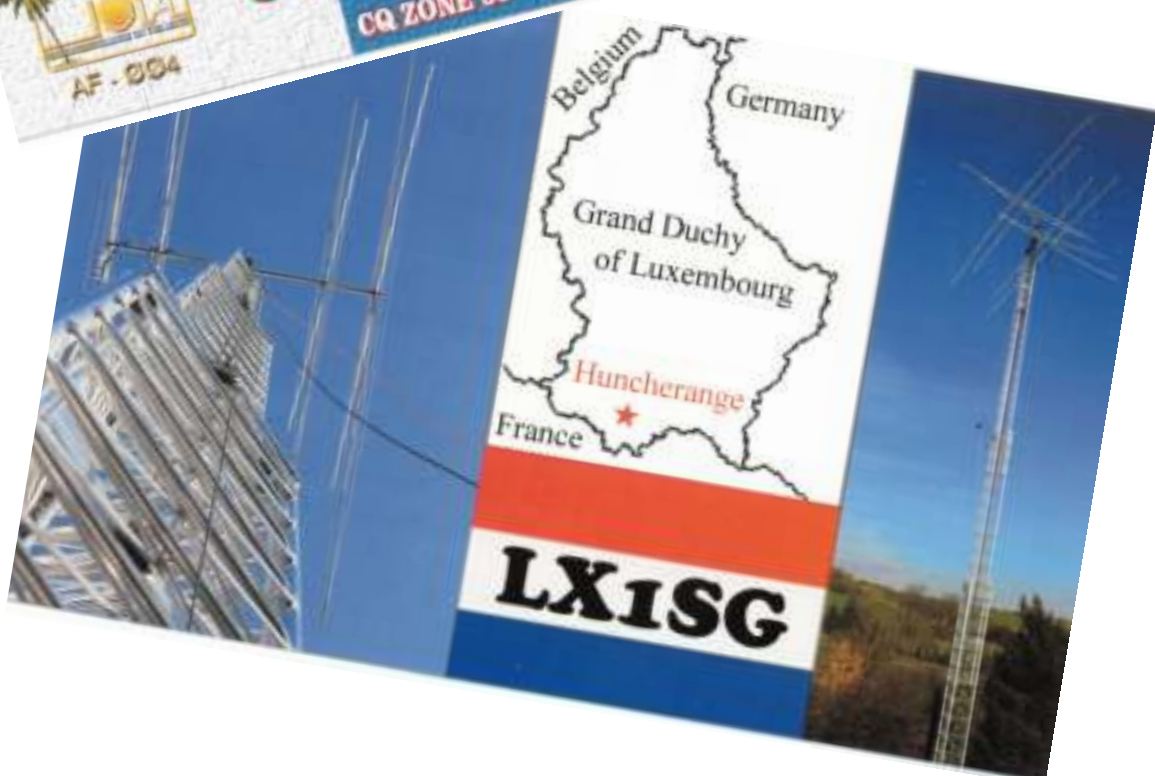
Sincere apologies to any contributors whose names were not recorded.

Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred)

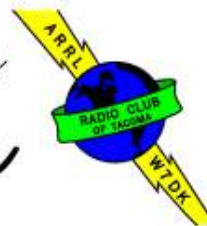
Club member Harry N7DOE again generously shares a couple of cards from his collection. This month's display features cards from lands far to the east of his QTH - Canary Islands and Luxemborg. As always,

thank
you!





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to ka7boj@w7dk.org

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Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...

Send articles to: w7dk-news@earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

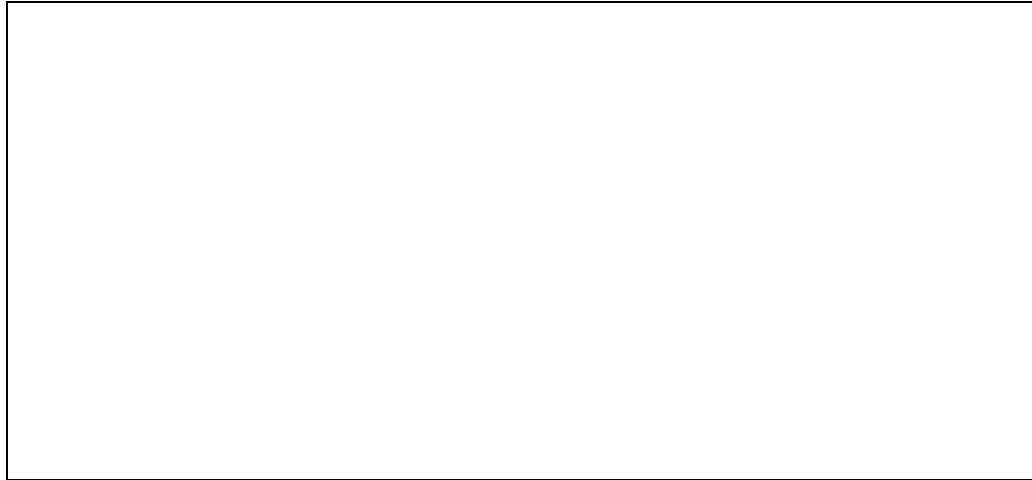
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



Upcoming RCT Events

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

